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price.' The prevalence of land-speculation calls forth warnings to confiding fellow-countrymen. Of the more detailed descriptions those of the yellow fever in Philadelphia and of the Whiskey Insurrection may be mentioned.

The Mangourit correspondence relating to the French designs on Florida, while not so full of dramatic interest as the letters on the Louisiana plot in the last Report, present a very vivid picture of an ambitious enterprise of which our general histories give merely a ghostlike glimpse. Mangourit, the French consul at Charleston, who was working up the expedition, was a revolutionary enthusiast whose public and private letters vibrate with political passion. The hapless refugees from San Domingo are "La corruption aristocratique que Saint Domingue a vomi dans cette contrée;" Washington's nonpartisan administration "est un monstre composé de tous les elemens politiques de la nation qui est une Macédoine de l'Espece humaine." Some of the English faction in Charleston indulging in a dinner on St. George's day, they are styled "esclaves anglais" and their festival an "orgie Georgienne." Now and then this intensity is mitigated by a vein of somewhat scholastic wit, as when the proposed capture of St. Augustine is referred to as an "opération pour avoir une bonne traduction française de la cité de Dieu par les divers Augustiens." An interesting and very early use of the term "lobby" deserves notice. Writing August 6, 1793, Mangourit expresses the hope that the "Américains éclairés" in Charleston who were joining the "Société patriotique," "ameneront la tranquilité et qu'ils deconcerterent le luby."

The Florida enterprise, to the cruel disappointment of Mangourit, shared in the general wreck of Genet's mission.

One of the most interesting revelations of these papers (p. 667) is the fact that Talleyrand's instructions to Citizen Guillemandet in 1798 (H. Adams, I. 357), outlining the argument to be presented to Spain for the retrocession of Louisiana, merely reproduces the instructions given in March, 1796, to General Perignon by the Directory fifteen months before Talleyrand came into office.

This second Report of the Manuscripts Commission is edited with the same scholarly fidelity as the first, and for this service we are indebted to the chairman, Professor Jameson, and, for the Mangourit papers, to Professor Turner.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

The Writings of James Monroe. Edited by STANISLAUS MURRAY HAMILTON. Vol. II., 1794-1796. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1899. Pp. xviii, 494.)

MR. HAMILTON's second volume has a unity which could not be imparted to the first, and which can hardly be impressed upon any later volume. It begins with the beginning of Monroe's first mission to France, and ends with its close. Nearly all the matter of the volume relates to the young envoy's negotiations in Paris, and ample opportu-

ity is given for judging his conduct in them. It was a hazardous experiment on Washington's part to send out for the management of so difficult an office a provincial Virginian of thirty-six, who was wholly inexperienced in diplomacy, however well versed he had become in the domestic portions of American politics. Moreover, to keep the peace with France and also with Great Britain had already become almost an impossibility. If Jay was well adapted to secure the one and Monroe well adapted for the other, seldom have we had envoys at Paris and London less adapted for mutual co-operation and that concert without which neither could really expect success.

At the beginning of his mission Monroe writes Jefferson that Jay, though he can easily succeed, "will arrogate to himself much merit for address in negotiation;" at the end of it he writes Madison that he sees how desirous Jay was "of embarking my reputation here in support of his, and with a view of sacrificing it, in case his merited to be sacrificed," and dwells upon the old grievance of the negotiations with Gardoqui, which had permanently prejudiced the Virginian's mind against Jay.

Add to all this the extraordinary difficulties and delays and uncertainties of communication with the Department of State at Philadelphia (heightened of late by the activity of belligerent cruisers), the constitutional inability of Secretary Randolph to make a straightforward statement in plain language, his retirement and his supersession by Pickering, who had the opposite vice of expression—and failure of one or both of the envoys may well seem to have been certain. Monroe did not wholly fail. Taking into account all the difficulties, he achieved a fair amount of success in the detailed work of his mission. But its general tone was unquestionably too Gallic, and his promise to the Committee of Public Safety that he would show them Jay's treaty when he received it was highly imprudent. Neither do his frequent remarks on French politics and the state of Europe mark him as a man of much insight and sagacity. He praises the Constitution of the Year III., and includes Barras among those "distinguished for their talents and integrity." His style, though still dull, has gained somewhat in flexibility. Contact with the world has rubbed away some of his eccentricities. His annoying use of "and which" for "which" continues, but he has dropped the writing of "hath" for "has."

There is not a great deal of new material in the volume. Of eighty-five letters of Monroe which it contains, fifty-eight had already been printed in the *American State Papers* or in Monroe's *View*, and two-thirds of another in a foot-note of Sparks's *Washington*, where it is given its correct date of January 3, 1796 (Mr. Hamilton, p. 164, has it a year out of place, January 3, 1795). The remaining twenty-six are derived from the Madison, Monroe, Jefferson and Washington papers in the Library of the Department of State. Mr. Hamilton gives no hint of the provenance of any of the letters, old or new, with a few exceptions. Of the new, all but five are letters to Jefferson and Madison, and many of these supply an interesting private commentary on the public transac-

tions. One of the most interesting passages in these letters is that in which (pp. 440-442) Monroe details one of the inconveniences to which he was subjected by his generosity toward Thomas Paine. After securing Paine's release from prison he kept him at his house, sick and impecunious, for many months. Pichon assured Ticknor that Monroe was far too much under Paine's influence; Mr. Conway thinks that Paine was a masculine Egeria to him, and gave him in good advice a full equivalent for all the money he got from him. However this may be, one's sympathy goes out to Monroe, for Paine cannot have been altogether successful as a household pet. John Wilkes or Charles Bradlaugh may have done great things for civil liberty but may also have been "gey ill to live wi'." Those of us who still think, after all Mr. Conway has written, that Paine was essentially a low fellow, will be interested in the letter mentioned. Monroe expressed to Paine the wish that, while in his house, he would not write anything for publication on American affairs, lest it react on him. Paine not only disputed the principle, but, to Monroe's extreme annoyance, made private efforts to evade the restriction suggested by his benefactor.

Many interesting documents, not written by Monroe, are given by Mr. Hamilton in his foot-notes. His own notes are sparing and judicious, and his texts lay us all under obligations. There are, however, many instances of careless proof-reading, such as the interchange of "posts" and "ports" (important when the question of the western posts is so prominent), "Vendu" for "Vendee," etc. The third volume, if it will really let us into the arcana of Jeffersonian politics in Virginia from 1796 to 1801, will be eagerly awaited.

Forty Years a Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri. The Personal Narrative of CHARLES LARPENTEUR, 1833-1872. Edited with many critical notes by ELLIOTT COUES. (New York: Francis P. Harper. 1898. Two vols., pp. xxvii, viii, 473.)

THIS book is original matter through and through. From fragments set down now and then and memories of fur-trade as early as 1833, it was written out by its author in 1872. The manuscript was unknown to the editor, Dr. Coues, till 1897.

The work embodies the experiences of forty years on the dual Missouri-Mississippi river and its affluents upward from St. Louis. The author, Larpenteur, born 1807 in France, reached the great river the year that he came of age, and in 1833, being short and slender, with some difficulty obtained employment in the Rocky Mountain Fur Company as a common hand. He was at once packed off with some forty others, each in charge of three mules, to the mouth of the Yellowstone. Their route was first to the upper waters of that stream and very circuitous, being by way of the head of Green river which flows into the Gulf of California. No wonder the caravan was five months on the march. Ft. Union, the point thus reached, was the head-centre from which Larpen-